FBIS DAILY REPORT

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Vol III No 048 *9 March 1984*

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USSR'S ISRAELYAN SPEAKS AT GENEVA ARMS TALKS

LD081721 Moscow TASS in English 1520 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Geneva March 8 TASS -- As shown by the speech by Konstantin Chernenko of the CPSU Central Committee, to constituents on March 2, there is not a single important problem of disarmament on which the Soviet Union has not made concrete and realistic proposals of late. These proposals have won the approval of most states, in particular, at the last, 38th session of the U.N. General Assembly. This was declared here today at a meeting of the conference on disarmament by leader of the Soviet delegation Viktor Israelyan. He singled out Konstantin Chernenko's idea that the attainment of agreement on imposing a general ban on nuclear weapons tests, limiting and reducing nuclear arsenals and prohibiting chemical weapons would mark a decisive change in Soviet-American relations and in the international situation as a whole.

Leader of the Czechoslovak delegation Milos Vejvoda spoke highly of the constructive initiatives and peace efforts of the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community in the field of disarmament. He recalled that the breakdown of the important talks on limiting nuclear armaments in Europe was caused by the adventurist actions of the United States which is unwilling to take into account the security interests of the partners in the talks.

The speech by U.S. representative Louis Fields, who today reiterated the negative position of his government in relation to concluding a treaty on a general and complete ban on nuclear weapons tests, confirmed that the Washington administration lacks the desire to unlock the process of the talks on disarmament.

Women taking part in a conference on the theme "Women and the world campaign for disarmament" today came to the hall where the Geneva forum is being held. On behalf of millions of women all over the world they called on the delegations to adopt urgent and concrete measures to deliver mankind from the threat of nuclear annihilation.

CHERNENKO SPEECH, CONTRAST TO U.S. POLICY VIEWED

PM082027 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Mar 84 First Edition p 4

[Article by political observer Vitaliy Korionov: "Efforts Should Be Doubled, Tripled"]

[Text] The response generated throughout the world by the speech delivered by Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the election meeting of voters of the capital's Kuybyshevskiy Electoral Okrug was enormous. This response is one more testimony to the outstanding role of the CPSU and the Soviet state in the world today.

"The most important manifestation of democracy," V.I. Lenin would say, "is in the basic issue of war and peace." The Soviet state's very profound democracy is expressed in the fact that on this basic issue of the present day it implacably struggles against the threat of war created by the policy of overt militarism and the claims to world domination pursued by the most aggressive forces of U.S. imperialism.

Key importance for peace and the peoples' security is connected with curbing the nuclear arms race which is giving rise to the danger of a world nuclear catastrophe. The inexhaustible interest in Comrade K.U. Chernenko's speech displayed in all corners of the planet is explained above all by the fact that the speech outlines the correct path for resolving that most urgent task for mankind.

The norms that should be placed at the foundation of the policy of all powers possessing nuclear weapons are formulated for the first time in such a precise form.

The foreign press calls the foreign policy norms proposed by the Soviet leader a veritable code of peace-loving interstate relations. In particular it is noted that in accordance with these norms all nuclear powers would regard the prevention of nuclear war as the main aim of their foreign policy, they would renounce the propaganda of nuclear war in any version, and they would undertake not to make first use of nuclear weapons. Adhering to these norms also means that under no circumstances would nuclear weapons be used against nonnuclear countries on whose territory no such weapons are deployed, preventing the proliferation of these weapons in any form, not transferring the nuclear arms race to new spheres, including space, and gradually seeking, on the basis of the principle of identical security, a reduction in nuclear arms until they are totally eliminated in all forms.

"The Soviet Union," K.U. Chernenko said, "has made these principles the basis of its policy. We are ready to agree at any time with other nuclear powers on the joint recognition of norms of this kind and on making them compulsory. I think that this would accord with the fundamental interests not only of the countries involved but also of the peoples of the whole world."

The Soviet Union's proclamation of norms of conduct for nuclear powers is an outstanding new contribution by the CPSU and the Soviet Union to the preservation and consolidation of world peace. The land of the soviets has shown once again how deeply it is aware of its duty to the present and future generations. It has been reaffirmed yet again in the most persuasive way that it is from our country that there emanate the most constructive proposals opening up a realistic path toward resolving pressing problems of the nuclear age.

Under these circumstances the socialist policy of peace is blazing a trail of most acute antagonism with the forces of imperialist reaction.

"Of all the dogmas of the sanctimonious policy of our time, there is not one that has caused as much damage as the dogma that proclaims 'if you want peace, prepare for war.' That great truth mainly distinguished by the fact that it contains a great lie, is the war cry that has called all Europe to arms and generated fanaticism among the landsknechts to such a degree that every new peace concluded is viewed as a new declaration of war and becomes the subject of corresponding speculations...In this state of affairs it is no surprise that if the general inclination toward barbarism becomes methodical, if immorality is promoted to the rank of a system, and if lawlessness finds its legislators, then the law of the fist finds its codes." These lines come from K. Marx' pen. Written over 120 years ago, they retain their pertinence to this day.

The greater the rebuff given to Washington's imperial ambitions by the forces for man's self-preservation, then the subtler the present U.S. Administration's attempts to assure everyone of its good intentions. However, this is precisely the kind of situation of which people say that the way to hell is paved with good intentions.

Of course, they can succumb to election rhetoric and scatter phrases left and right about how "America must be a symbol of peace throughout the world," but the cause of preventing war will not gain one iota. Washington's assurances of its desire for peace can be taken seriously only if they are accompanied by real actions. But there are not even hints on this score.

If any new confirmation of this were needed, then it was given recently by the U.S. State Department that issued an official statement on K.U. Chernenko's speech. This statement contained no specific proposals that might have promoted genuine Soviet-U.S. dialogue and no constructive attitude toward the specific new Soviet proposals. On the contrary, all the practical actions by the Washington administration can only worsen and aggravate the international situation.

The arms race unleashed by aggressive U.S. circles has acquired an unprecedented nature. Plans for unleashing nuclear war are being discussed aloud for all to hear. Military appropriations are snowballing. Washington's course is inflaming the entire international atmosphere to fever pitch. A report published recently by Worldwatch, a private U.S. research organization, noted that last year world military expenditure reached $663 billion, which is approximately 20 times more than it was in the thirties.

The majority of arms limitation and disarmament talks have been blocked by Washington. A graphic example is the use of the Geneva talks by the U.S. side as an instrument of propaganda covering up West Europe's transformation into a Pentagon launchpad.

As a result of Washington's obstructionist policy, it is not nuclear arms that have been frozen, as the Soviet Union proposes, but the solution of a whole package of issues connected with reducing nuclear arsenals, drafting agreements on the total prohibition of nuclear weapons tests, and so forth. Moreover, they are now trying to move the nuclear arms race into space.

U.S. militarization is continuing at a growing pace. As Harvard University Professor John Kenneth Galbraith wrote recently, under the present administration the key posts in the Defense Department have been given to bigwigs of military-industrial firms. "That is not civilian control but a highly distorted management of the military-industrial firms. "That is not civilian control but a highly distorted management of the military-industrial complex by the military-industrial complex itself in the interests of the military-industrial complex." Present-day U.S. military men, Galbraith observes, "are no longer considered defenders of life, but carriers of horror and death."

The facts, therefore, attest that the Washington administration's approach to the disarmament problem bars the way to its solution.

What a contrast is presented by the Soviet Union's approach toward this very important problem! As a great socialist power, the USSR is fully aware of its responsibility to the peoples for preserving peace.

Describing the morals of bourgeois society, V.I. Lenin wrote: "This old world has its own old diplomacy that cannot believe that it is possible to speak frankly and openly. The old diplomacy believes that there must be some guile here." The fundamental feature of socialist foreign policy is that it is free from the deception and hypocrisy inherent in imperialist diplomacy and reflecting the weakness of bourgeois society. The honesty of Soviet diplomacy is the result of socialism's might and its confidence in its powers.

No one will succeed in catching us unprepared, and no potential aggressor has the slightest chance of avoiding a crushing retaliatory strike. But in no way does that mean that our country has ever been, or could be, the initiator of the arms race.

When the CPSU and the Soviet state declare that they want a real breakthrough in relations with the United States and with the other Western powers, there is not a grain of deception here.

This desire expresses the vital interests of essentially all peoples of the world. After all, such a breakthrough could open the way to the normalization of the general political atmosphere in the world.

The voice of our socialist power in the international arena has an authoritative, imposing ring. Hundreds of millions of people in all corners of the world heed it, because this voice is calling for peace and cooperation. The Soviet Peace Program is shared by many states, including nonsocialist ones. This is confirmed in particular in the United Nations where, THE NEW YORK TIMES notes, "the Soviet Union has become a most influential member."

Fluctuations based on considerations of expediency are alien to the USSR's foreign policy course. The profoundly peace-loving nature of our country's policy is determined by the Soviet people's vital interests and has been enshrined by the decisions of CPSU congresses and the USSR Constitution. The Soviet Union is open to peaceful mutually advantageous cooperation with the states of the whole world. Anyone who is really seeking peace will find a reliable partner in the USSR. Now that our country has submitted for mankind's examination one more package of large-scale measures aimed at achieving practical accords on averting the threat of nuclear war, Soviet people would like to hope that common sense will nonetheless prevail in Washington and the other NATO states' capitals.

Side by side with the Soviet Union, the fraternal socialist countries are fighting to preserve peace. The all-around intensification of the cohesion and solidarity of the community countries on the basis of the principle of socialist internationalism is and will be the primary direction of Soviet foreign policy.

In response to the growth of the military threat, the people's masses of the nonsocialist countries are stepping up their incursion into the sphere of foreign policy. The antiwar and antimissile movement has swept the NATO countries in a broad wave. The forces of reason are also being activated in the United States itself.

A profound belief in the people's ability to preserve reason has always been inherent in the CPSU and Soviet state. And now Soviet people also believe that the course of events will ultimately be successfully returned to the direction of the consolidation of peace, the limitation of the arms race, and the development of international cooperation. Lenin's party, the Soviet state, and our entire people are devoting all their efforts to the solution of this most urgent task.

YAKOVLEV INTERVIEWED ON SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY

OW0081738 Tokyo NHK Television Network in Japanese 1221 GMT 8 Mar 84

[NHK Correspondent Iida's interview with Aleksandr Nikolayevich Yakovlev, director of the World Economics and International Relations Institute, Moscow, of the USSR Academy of Sciences, conducted in Russian with Japanese subtitles -- time and place of interview not indicated -- the questions and answers processed from Russian]

[Text] [Announcer] As you recall, whenever there is news about the Soviet Union, reporter Iida of the NHK Foreign News Division presents a commentary on the news in this studio. He has interviewed Aleksandr Yakovlev, one of the highest Soviet authorities on international affairs. Mr Yakovlev has been the director of the World Economics and International Relations Institute under the Academy of Social Sciences since last May. Prior to this, he had been in the foreign service for 10 years, including his career as Soviet ambassador to Canada. He is said to have great influence on the formulation of Soviet foreign policy.

Correspondent Iida, who is now in Moscow, has interviewed him on Soviet foreign policy under General Secretary Chernenko and on the suspended European intermediate-range nuclear force [INF] negotiations.

[Iida] Aleksandr Nikolayevich, may I ask about internal changes in USSR foreign policy in connection with Mr Chernenko's election as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee? What do you think?

[Yakovlev] We have no need to change anything. Let us consider this question for ourselves. Well, we consider and our conception is that our policy is peace-loving; our military conception is defensive. That is the main thing; we do not threaten anyone. The stronger peace is, the better for us, the better for the world, and the better for the Japanese people, for everyone. Therefore, I repeat: We have no need to change anything. No objective factors exist that would force us to change our policy.

[Iida] Currently, Soviet-U.S. relations are at the lowest level. What do you think? Are there indications, certain indications, of a change in these relations after the meeting in Moscow of Mr Chernenko with Mr Bush, vice president of the United States?

[Yakovlev] I agree with you that our relations with the United States are indeed at a very low level, whatever yardstick we use. A lot of bitterness, unpleasantness, and danger -- I would say much danger -- have accumulated in these relations.

There is much talk now that there are indications in Washington that it is inclined toward dialogue, toward reconciliation, and toward improvement of relations. What can I say in this regard? I think I will sincerely say that this changes nothing in our relations, because this rhetorical, peaceful disposition is not presently supported by anything.

However, if the American side displays such a desire in practice, then I think that the matter can be set in motion. Addressing electors, our general secretary said that achieving agreement on individual questions could set the matter in motion. A turning point could be achieved, and we want such a turning point.

[Iida] What is the attitude of the Soviet Union toward the suspended INF talks in Geneva on reducing intermediate-range missiles and on reducing strategic weapons? You know that an opinion exists that if the two talks were united, then the Soviet Union might return to the negotiating table. What do you think?

[Yakovlev] I think that this is not so, and strictly speaking, this is not the problem. The essence of the matter is that the Americans are trying to achieve superiority, to achieve their own superior position. We will not agree to this and will not permit any superiority. He [as heard] has often come out as an initiator in this sphere, and we consider that we were close to agreement in Geneva, very close, but the deployment of U.S. missiles suspended these talks, because we consider that the Americans only wanted to achieve superiority again. However, we are prepared to conduct talks with them on the basis of the principle of equality and equal security.

Can one return to the talks? Of course one can, but on the condition that the position is the same that existed before the talks. We said this clearly. As regards the question you touched on about other variants of the talks, I think that at present they do not lend themselves to forecasting. One cannot say ahead of time how things could be done. Why? Because the general situation of tension and the general military and strategic situation require new assessments, and I would say certain reassessments in the position, in the situation, and in policy, and only after this, apparently, can one talk about what further steps can be taken.

ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP IN UN QUESTIONED, DERIDED

PM090953 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 8 Mar 84 p 3

[V. Muravyev article under the rubric "Pertinent Notes": "Shifting the Blame"]

[Text] The United Nations has recently been subjected to particularly vehement attacks from reactionary forces. An active role in this unseemly campaign is being played by the Israeli Zionists. A vivid example of this is the letter sent to UN Secretary General J. Perez de Cuellar by Israel's permanent representative Y. Blum. In this document he accused the United Nations of having turned into a forum for inciting anti-Semitism.

Many of the Zionist state's politicians and statemens, including Israeli President C. Herzog, had previously made similar slanderous statements, and at the end of last year the Israeli Government announced that it was reducing its contribution to UN funds.

The irritation of Israel's ruling circles is entirely understandable: The international community has condemned and continues to condemn Tel Aviv's expansionist policy. Representatives of the overwhelming majority of UN states have repeatedly stressed in General Assembly discussions that the explosive situation in the Near East has developed through the fault of the Israeli Zionists and their "strategic ally" -- the United States.

Here is the latest instance: It is well known that specific UN Security Council resolutions exist continaing demands for a complete and unconditional withdrawal of the aggressor's troops from Lebanese territory. Washington and Tel Aviv imposed the shackling "peace agreement" with Israel on Lebanon in an attempt to undermine the Security Council resolutions and legalize the Zionist occupation of the south of the country. Now Lebanon has abrogated the deal imposed on it. The aggressor has thus been even deprived of the fictitious cover for his military presence. The response was not long in coming. Israeli Prime Minister Shamir impudently stated that the abrogation of the agreement with Israel was "tantamount to passing a death sentence on Lebanon's sovereignty," and threatened that "there will be neither a President al-Jumayyil nor a Lebanon."

Its partner -- the United States -- is operating hand in glove with Israel. A State Department representative declared that U.S. warships will remain off Lebanese shores. "Those who rejected the agreement," he stated, clearly encouraging the aggressor to continue his occupation, "must take responsibility for seeking an alternative formula for talks on securing a withdrawal of Israeli troops."

The UN states' indignation at the barbaric actions of the Israeli Zionists has reached the point where circles in that organization are increasingly and frequently raising the question of whether Israel, in systematically and blatantly violating fundamental UN principles, can continue to remain a member of the international organization.

The question "to be or not to be" -- applied to Israeli membership in the United Nations is being posed in all seriousness. Nonetheless, Tel Aviv continues to disregard the warnings from the world public, and is, for all intents and purposes, setting itself up against the United Nations, evidently forgetting that it owes its very existence to that organization. As is well known, the second UN General Assembly session in 1947 adopted a resolution in accordance with which the State of Israel appeared in the Near East a year later. Neither is it out of place to recall here that the Zionist leaders immediately set their sights on deceiving the international community.

Having set up the State of Israel in accordance with the UN resolution, they have since used every means of hindering the implementation of the other half of the same resolution, which stipulates the formation of an independent Palestinian state.

Moreover, Tel Aviv's ruling circles are guilty of crimes against humanity -- the genocide of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. The blood of civilian inhabitants -- old men, women, and children -- flows in the long-suffering land of Lebanon. The world public quite justifiably compares the atrocities committed by the Israeli military in the occupied territories to the crimes of the Hitlerite fascists.

The explanation for Tel Aviv's impudence is well known: total confidence in the unconditional support of the United States and international Zionism. It is precisely as a result of offical Washington's diplomatic maneuvers and large-scale U.S. economic and military aid that Israel dares to carry out its piratical actions in an attempt to recarve the map of the Near East as its sees fit to implement the insane Zionist idea of creating a "Greater Israel" on the Arab states' territory.

It is natural that official Washington, which, proceeding from its own hegemonist interests, in encouraging Tel Aviv in its international piracy, should hamper in every possible way the international community's attempts to slap down the unbridled aggressor. U.S. representatives in the United Nations have repeatedly blocked adoption by the Security Council of resolutions unambiguously calling on Israel to end its policy of aggression and piracy and withdraw its troops from the occupied Arab territories. When the developing and socialist states raised the question of the possibility and advisability of Israel's further presence in the United Nations, official Washington in the person of its representative J. Kirkpatrick even went so far as to blackmail the international community, threatening the United Nations with "financial sanctions." The other day she put forward a new original idea. Speaking at Senate subcommittee hearings, she recommended "making a careful study" of the way UN members vote and then "measuring out" the amount of the U.S. contribution to the organization depending on their "behavior." In other words, fining the United Nations. Even President Reagan himself, who has repeatedly spoken of the 'unbiased nature' of U.S. Near East policy, has been forced to openly demonstrate his true political sympathies. Speaking last December in Rockville, Maryland, he stated outright that "if Israel is ever forced to quit the United Nations, the United States and Israel will leave together."

The slanderous fabrications leveled by the Israeli ruling clique at the United Nations attest to the fact that the Zionists, as well as their backers, the United States, seriously believe in the possibility of Tel Aviv continuing to ignore with impunity and violate the UN Charter and to flout the generally accepted norms of international law. However, the Zionist rulers' hopes are vain ones. The world public does not intend to put up with Tel Aviv's impudent adventurist policy which could turn the Near East into a hotbed of major international conflict.

WORLD MEDIA CITED ON CHERNENKO SPEECH

PM081859 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Mar 84 First Edition p 4

[TASS roundup: "High Responsibility for Destiny of Peace"]

[Excerpt] 5 Mar -- The speech of CPSU Central Committee General Secretary K.U. Chernenko to voters is the focus of attention of the world public and press.

Prominent politicians and the mass media of various countries are stressing the principledness and continuity of the USSR's foreign and domestic policy and the inflexible determination of the CPSU and Soviet state to defend and consolidate peace. The Soviet Union, the press commentaries note, has called on all the planet's states to view the prevention of nuclear war as the chief aim of their foreign policy and to seek step by step, on the basis of the principle of identical security, to reduce nuclear armaments all the way to their complete elimination in all their diverse forms.

Mankind's vital interests require that relations between powers with nuclear weapons at their disposal be subject to certain norms RUDE PRAVO (CSSR) writes. The Soviet Union precisely and clearly expounded the essence of these norms, which hinge on eliminating the threat of nuclear catastrophe and curbing the arms race unleashed by imperialism. The adoption of this code of interstate relations would be a major contribution to consolidating security and peace and would lead to a substantial strengthening of trust between states.

K.U. Chernenko's speech contained a powerful appeal for peace, common sense, and the guaranteeing of peoples' reliable security, Bulgaria's RABOTNICHESKO DELO says in an editorial. The speech precisely and clearly stressed that the Soviet Union has opposed and continues to oppose the buildup of nuclear arsenals, that it has supported and continues to support the banning and destruction of all types of nuclear weapons, and is prepared to hold talks on this question at any time with other nuclear powers on the basis of the principle of equality and identical security. In the current international situation, aggravated by the United States and its NATO allies, the Soviet Union is forced to pay the most serious attention to strengthening the country's defense and to ensure that the fraternal socialist countries have adequate security, which corresponds with the vital interests not just of the Warsaw Pact states, but also of the people of the world world.

Cherish peace like the apple of your eye -- this slogan, coming from Moscow, has been heeded on all the planet's continents, Poland's TRYBUNA LUDU writes. K.U. Chernenko's speech to voters, notable for its firmness, calm, and realism, particularly stresses the determination of the CPSU and the Soviet state to ensure the reliable security of the Soviet Union, and in close cooperation with the socialist community countries, to guarantee the security of these countries as well, to prevent a situation in which nuclear conflict might threaten to emerge, and in the event of such a danger emerging, to hold urgent consultations to prevent nuclear conflagration from flaring. These are precise and clear proposals, but to adopt them would mean to recognize parity, balance of forces, and the principle of partnership in relations with the USSR. It is this that R. Reagan's administration does not wish to do.

In their broadcasts, Cuba's radio and television highlight the Soviet leader's word that the fraternal socialist states resolutely support the Cuban people. "As for the USSR, it has been, is, and will continue to stay with Cuba through fair weather and foul," the newspaper GRANMA writes, citing K.U. Chernenko's speech.

The organ of the CPV Central Committee, NHAN DAN, describes K.U. Chernenko's speech as an exceptionally vivid manifestation of the consistent stance, the good will, and the peace-loving policy of the Soviet Union. The paper stresses in an editorial that this important speech confirms again the USSR's principled stance, revolutionary vigilance, and high responsibility for the destiny not just of the socialist community, but of all mankind as well.

The Soviet Union is a genuine bulwark of revolution and peace. We are well aware that the USSR's might and its readiness to come to the defense of peace are a fitting response to the imperialists and their minions who are pursuing an adventurist and bellicose policy.

Comrade K.U. Chernenko, the article goes on to say, expressed himself on questions of normalizing relations with China and stressed very definitely that, at the Soviet-Chinese consultations, the USSR cannot enter into any accords which would be damaging to the interests of their countries. The people of Vietnam welcome this principled stance of the Soviet Union and fully support the USSR's talks with China on normalizing interstate relations. At the same time, we warmly welcome the USSR's consistent stance vis-a-vis Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea, which the Soviet Union is adopting at these talks.

U.S., PRC REACTION TO CHERNENKO SPEECH NOTED

PM071600 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Mar 84 First Edition p 8

[TASS roundup: "Following a Course of Peace"]

[Excerpts] 6 Mar -- Washington -- Following the first reports by news agencies, radio, and television, the major American newspapers have published articles by their correspondents and political observers which set out K.U. Chernenko's speech to voters in detail and comment on it. The press is keenly commenting on the specific program which formulates real actions capable of leading to a change for the better in Soviet-American relations. American observers view the norms, as formulated in the speech, which must govern relations among nuclear powers as a constructive step by the Soviet leadership in the direction of seeking a way out of the dangerous impasse into which the international situation has been led through Washington's fault.

I welcome the desire expressed by the CPSU Central Committee general secretary to achieve a limitation of the arms race and to return to a period of relaxation of international tension, W. Fulbright, well known U.S. politician and former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, stated.

Beijing -- The main provisions of K.U. Chernenko's speech have been reported by the central Chinese newspapers and broadcast by radio and television. A XINHUA report carried in RENMIN RIBAO quotes in detail the CPSU Central Committee general secretary's statement that the Soviet Union is in favor of normalizing relations with the PRC and quotes his words that the revival of mutually beneficial Soviet-Chinese ties in the economy, culture, science, and other spheres is to the benefit of both our countries and the cause of improving the general world situation.

DETAILS ON GEN ROGERS' 'FIRST STRIKE' REMARKS

PM081631 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Mar 84 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Preparing a Nuclear Strike"]

[Text] Washington, 7 Mar -- It is clear from a statement by General B. Rogers, NATO's supreme allied commander in Europe, that the new U.S. missiles deployed in West Europe are designed to deliver a frist strike against the USSR and the other socialist countries.

Addressing hearings at the U.S. Congress House Armed Services Committee, he asked that the "distinguishing feature" of the NATO bloc's current military strategy is its "readiness to make first use of nuclear weapons." According to him, one of NATO's goals is the extensive buildup of its nuclear missile potential, which he claims is "at an alarmingly low level." As for the Soviet Union's unilateral undertaking to renounce first use of nuclear weapons, the general noted that NATO strategy rules out such an undertaking.

The United States also intends to seek from its allies a substantial buildup of conventional arms. Rogers stated that the bloc's countries should undertake the extensive modernization of the armed forces and improve their equipment and training. He demanded, almost in the form of an ultimatum, that the West European governments considerably increase their military appropriations. Here he made it clear that, in order to justify this step, it is essential yet again to inflate the myth of the "Soviet threat." Military appropriations, Rogers stressed, will seem "acceptable if we are able to persuade people that their freedom is threatened."

SOVIET DELEGATE ADDRESSES STOCKHOLM CDE SESSION

LD081719 Moscow TASS in English 1607 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Stockholm March 8 TASS -- Maj-Gen Viktor Tatarnikov, a member of the Soviet delegation, today addressed a plenary session of the conference on confidence-building measures, security and disarmament, currently under way here. He spoke at length on the large-scale initiatives advanced by the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community, on the adoption by all nuclear states taking part in the conference of the pledge not to use nuclear weapons first and on the conclusion of a treaty on non-use of force and on maintenance of relations of peace. The implementation of these major measures, the Soviet representative stressed, is especially important in the present-day atmosphere of mistrust and tension that has established as a result of the deployment of American first-strike nuclear missiles in some NATO countries.

On the American "nuclear deterrence" strategy, he emphasised that this concept, while being inseparably linked with the arms race, is incompatible with confidence and security. It in fact runs counter to the very idea of non-first use of nuclear weapons.

The Soviet representative said that the USSR, in development of the corresponding provisions of the Helsinki Final Act, is prepared to work out additional measures for building confidence in the military field, that would be greater in their character and more comprehensive.

Using concrete facts, he showed that the NATO countries' approach to confidence-building measures in the military [words indistinct] "openness" of military activity of the European states. This would jeopardise the interests of their security, would run counter to the task of strengthening confidence that is facing the Stockholm conference.

DEMICHEV MEETS FRG, JORDANIAN AMBASSADORS

PM061551 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Mar 84 First Edition p 4

[TASS Report: "Ambassadors Received"]

[Text] P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the USSR Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of culture, received H. (Kastl), FRG ambassador to the USSR, at the latter's request 2 March and held a conversation with him on questions of further developing cultural ties between the two countries.

The conversation took place in a businesslike and frank atmosphere.

On the same day P.N. Demichev received F. at-Tawil, Jordanian ambassador to the USSR. The conversation, which took place in a friendly atmosphere, examined questions of Soviet-Jordanian ties in the field of culture and art and discussed long-term plans for bilateral cooperation.

U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD RELATIONS WITH USSR BLASTED

PM081515 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 3

[Own political observer V. Matveyev commentary: "Unworthy Game"]

[Text] Is it possible to make the fate of peace an object of political speculation or an unscrupulous game? Is it permissible to juggle with the idea of talks, deluding the public on questions on which the very integrity and inviolability of our planet depends?

These questions contain obvious answers. The old truth about the indivisibility of peace has a particularly urgent ring in the nuclear age. No state can gain anything by engaging in dangerous brinkmanship.

These are indeed commonplace, but they need to be repeated again and again. And even people on the different continents who are inexperienced in questions of politics can see that the highest echelons of power in the United States and NATO's political headquarters are engaged in propaganda exercises, whose target is the broad sections of the public in the West which are demanding from their governments specific steps, actions, and primarily a search for mutually acceptable accords with the Soviet Union.

Various people can have different opinions about where the most serious seat of military danger lies, but there are no differences of opinion regarding its most alarming sympton -- tension in Soviet-American relations.

This is why the election speech of Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, put such emphasis on the importance of a positive change in Soviet-American relations. "We would welcome such a change," he declared from the lofty platform in Moscow. "It is up to Washington."

Looking the real facts directly in the face means drawing the proper practical conclusions from them and acting for the sake of peace. This has been and still is the consistent peace-loving stance of the Soviet Union.

And what is the stance of the other side -- the U.S. ruling circles? Time passes and the utterances heard from official platforms in Washington appealing for "dialogue" are still only wordy rhetorical exercises with no practical backup.

Who else but the U.S. secretary of state should know the real state of affairs in the sphere of Soviet-American relations? But what can be heard at present from his lips? Speaking at the beginning of March, G. Shultz alleged that U.S. relations with the Soviet Union are "now better, and not worse." What does the State Department chief mean by this "better?" How can he maintain this, when not just the public but also governments in West Europe close to Washington are talking of the need for the United States to take specific steps and measures in order to achieve a change for the better in Soviet-American relations?

So how does official Washington react to such opinions? The same old story, but laid on more thickly! This is the approach on the other side of the ocean. It is alleged that the "from-a-position-of-strength policy is yielding fruit" and for this reason must be continued. Obstructions and barriers on the path of improving the situation -- these are the "fruits"! In brief, an attempt is being made over the ocean to dull the brain. It is pointed out that the Soviet Union is continually coming forward with peace initiatives. And this is passed off as "proof" of the success of Washington's course. As if people there do not know that ultimatums and negativism have always been alien to the USSR's peace-loving policy which accords with Leninist principles.

These people are measuring with their own yardstick. Practical experience shows that the administration in Washington is making no progress forward as regards constructive, practical steps and deeds.

Washington is making a virtue out of marking time and passing it off as some sort of "principledness." In another interview given recently, the same U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz alleged that the United States should do nothing now to renew the talks process with the Soviet Union, but should "maintain a sense of reality and understanding of the great importance of force." This was said as bluntly as that! And after that Washington is even angry with its allies in Europe, because they are supposedly demanding flexibility and readiness for talks from the United States!

This is why the conclusion of many observers, sensible politicians in the United States and other Western countries is justified -- that the current U.S. Administration has made the question of war and peace and the questions of relations between the United States and the USSR the object of an unscrupulous political game in the conditions of the election campaign which has started across the ocean. To put it simply, the rhetoric on the theme of talks which is coming out of official Washington has become a means of election trickery and of disorientation of the public.

PENTAGON RELUCTANT TO HOLD ASAT TALKS

PM081440 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 4

[Unattributed report: "The Pentagon's Appetites"]

[Text] The U.S. Administration "is not inclined" to engage in negotiations about a ban on the production, testing, and deployment of antisatellite weapon systems, THE WASHINGTON POST reports.

Referring to "unnamed officials," the paper writes that an interagency memorandum drawn up on this question does not recommend talks aimed at averting an arms race in space. The reason is, allegedly, the "technical infeasibility" of monitoring the observance of the provisions of a potential treaty, without which it would remain fiction.

Such demagoguery, however, cannot cover up the true state of affairs: The Pentagon has requested $1.4 billion just for final modifications to and the deployment of a single type of air-launched antisatellite missile. With such giddy prospects, checking the Pentagon's appetite is indeed "technically impossible."

WEINBERGER SEEKS RECORD MILITARY BUDGET

PM090958 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Mar 84 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Following a Militarist Course"]

[Text] Washington, 2 Mar -- The Pentagon has started another massive psychological attack on Congress, trying to obtain its unquestioning approval of the full amount of the record military spending of $318.4 billion requested by the Reagan administration for the next fiscal year of 1985. C. Weinberger, head of the military department, and General J. Vessey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spent almost a whole day on Capitol Hill, addressing first an open and then a closed session of the Defense Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee.

Resorting to methods now traditional in such cases, Weinberger once again tried to intimidate the legislators with the mythical U.S. "military lag" behind the Soviet Union and the "threat from the East." At the same time he zealously propagandized the White House's programs for "rearming" America, leaving no doubt that these are aimed at achieving U.S. strategic superiority and preparing for nuclear warfare. In this connection he categorically demanded that the legislators allocate "down to the last cent" all the appropriations requested by the administration for purposes of intensifying the strike power of the U.S. strategic nuclear "triad" -- if particular, building new Trident-2 nuclear missile submarines, B-1 strategic bombers, new MX ICBM's, and Midgetman strategic nuclear missiles.

The head of the military department confirmed that the United States intends to continue to deploy medium-range nuclear Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in West Europe. Nor did Weinberger conceal the fact that the Reagan administration is preparing for new aggressive wars and acts of armed intervention abroad. "We must be ready to wage protracted combat operations at various points throughout the whole globe," the Pentagon chief proclaimed, lavishing praise on the recent U.S. bandit attack on Grenada.

Vessey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, stressed in his turn that the Pentagon accords the "very highest priority" to "modernizing the strategic nuclear forces." "We also pay great attention," he noted significantly, "to modernizing our arsenals of chemical ammunition."

PRC HOPES FOR NORMALIZATION OF TIES WITH USSR

LD082033 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Summary] The foreign press and leading politicians continue to comment on Chernenko's election address and his speech at a meeting with party Central Committee workers. "Commenting on Comrade Chernenko's statement in his speech to the electorate to the effect that the Soviet Union consistently supports normalization of relations with the PRC, Wang Zhenyu, deputy head of the Information Department of the PRC Foreign Ministry, said at a meeting with foreign and Chinese journalists: We have drawn attention to the statement by Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on the Soviet Union's desire to improve relations with the PRC. China sincerely hopes for normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations. To achieve this it is necessary to eliminate obstacles in the way of normalization of relations between the two countries."

COMPARISON OF WAN LI VIEWING USSR EXHIBIT

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 7 March carries in its First Edition on page 8 a TASS report on the visit by Wan Li and other PRC officials to the USSR pavilion at the medical exhibition in Beijing. The PRAVDA report, entitled "Visit to Soviet Pavilion," has been compared with the Moscow Television Service version published in the 6 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page B 1, revealing the following variation:

Paragraph one, line one reads in PRAVDA: [Text] Beijing, 6 Mar -- Wan Li... (providing dateline).

DEFENSE MINISTER USTINOV'S INDIA VISIT CONTINUES

Speaks With Indian Servicemen

LD081423 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1345 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Delhi, 8 Mar (TASS) -- Marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitriy Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense, who is in India on an official visit at the invitation of the Indian Government, has been continuing his tour of the country. He arrived today in the town of Dehra Dun (Uttar Pradesh State) where he visited a military unit of the Indian Army.

In conversation with servicemen the USSR defense minister said: The world situation today is complicated. Neither is it simple in Asia. Here too aggressive imperialist circles are dangerously whipping up military tension. They are trying to hinder free development and equal cooperation among peoples, stirring up hostility and mutual mistrust.

The Soviet Union is a principled opponent of military confrontation, the minister said. We advocate close cooperation with all who are prepared to develop it on a businesslike, equal basis, on the principles of peaceful coexistence and mutual benefit. Soviet-Indian relations, sealed in the USSR-Indian treaty on peace, friendship and cooperation, are built on precisely this basis.

Friendly mutual relations between the Soviet Union and India are developing fruitfully and dynamically in many spheres. Military cooperation occupies an important place in them. It is not directed against third countries; its aim is to safeguard the security of our peoples, and to protect and consolidate peace in Asia and the whole world. And it is faithfully serving this aim. The Soviet Union gives high appraisal to India's foreign policies, and to the initiatives of her Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, initiatives directed toward removing the threat of nuclear war, achieving disarmament and developing all-round cooperation. Indira Gandhi also devotes much effort to this through its position as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement.

On the same day the USSR defense minister returned to Delhi.

Visit to Aircraft Plant

LD081808 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 8 Mar 84

[From the Vremya newscast]

[Text] Marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense, who is on an official visit to India at the invitation of the Indian Government, continues to acquaint himself with the country:

[Begin video report by correspondent A. Tikhomirov] On the road in Nasik, and Hal, one of the biggest aviation construction works in India. [Video shows Ustinov at works] In the town we saw the most up-to-date fine, precision work. It could be said that Soviet experts in aircraft construction have -- as it should be -- long since spoken in one engineering language with the experts of this factory.

Three hours later, together with the Soviet minister of defense and those accompanying him, we were already 1,000 kilometers south, in Madras, having flown across India from the east coast.

What a surprising country of many faces this is. Here is the Mahabalipuram temple -- these rock-hewn figures are more than 2,000 years old. [video shows Ustinov visiting Madras and temple] They have been polished, it seems, not only by the touch of people's hands but also by the gaze of millions and millions of people. Such is Marshal Ustinov's route across this friendly country, from places connected with ancient history to the most modern industrially developed regions.

Having visited a shipyard and a military unit in the southern region of India, the Soviet minister of defense left Madras for Delhi. [end video report]

COOPERATION PROTOCOL WITH DRA SIGNED IN KABUL

LD081206 Moscow TASS in English 1046 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Kabul March 8 TASS -- The Soviet-Afghan Intergovernmental Commission for Economic Cooperation has ended a meeting here after reviewing the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of its third meeting and considering ways of further deepening and extending Soviet-Afghan economic and trade cooperation.

The commission reviewed in detail cooperation in the construction and maintenance of transport, industrial, power-generating, farming and irrigation facilities, communications, public health services, the training of national personnel, and other fields. It was pointed out that in 1982 and 1983 alone 16 industrial and other projects of importance to the Afghan economy were completed and put into operation with the USSR's assistance.

The jointly built projects produced 18 billion afghanis worth of products and made some 14 billion afghanis in profits last year. At present these facilities, constructed in the framework of Soviet-Afghan cooperation, account for about 70 percent of industrial output in the state sector of the economy in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Attaching much importance to the further development and extension of Soviet-Afghan economic and technological cooperation, the Soviet and Afghan delegations to the meeting also examined questions related to the repair and rehabilitation of Afghan highways with the help of Soviet-supplied road-building machinery and materials, deliveries of Soviet farm machines for use on lands belonging to the state sector, the reconstruction of the Kabul-Nandari theatre, the building of eight boarding schools, and other projects.

The meeting paid much attention to questions of further developing Soviet-Afghan trade. It was emphasized that at present the Soviet Union's share in the DRA's foreign trade stands at some 60 percent. The USSR in 1983 continued to supply Afghanistan with a wide range of consumer and other goods for free and under a long-term state credit. Agreement was reached that such supplies will be continued also in 1984.

A protocol was signed at the DRA State Planning Committee yesterday, which registered the sides' agreement on questions of further extending Soviet-Afghan economic and trade cooperation.

U.S. INDIAN OCEAN ACTIONS 'ESCALATING' TENSION

LD081703 Moscow TASS in English 1457 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Washington March 8 TASS -- The Reagan Administration is stepping up the militarisation of the Indian Ocean and escalating military and political tension in that region, as is illustrated by the speeches of the U.S. Secretary of State Shultz and Undersecretary of State Schneider at hearings in a subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The state secretary, in particular, threatened that U.S. may interfere militarily in the Hormuz Strait. He stressed that the USA was planning measures to prevent the Hormuz Strait from being closed to oil supplies for the West. Schneider said for his part that using military aid to "friendly" countries in the region, Washington was seeking to ease the access of U.S. troops to military facilities in those countries and their shipment into that region to protect vital oilfields.

Kenya and Somalia, which will receive in fiscal 1985 military aid to the value of 79.8 and 76.2 million dollars, respectively, are particularly important to the security interests of the United States, the spokesman for the State Department cynically discoursed. The Pentagon is now setting up in the two countries military facilities which will be used by the police-like "Rapid Deployment Force." More than 65 million dollars will be given in fiscal 1985 to Oman, which has made its ports available to the U.S. Armed Forces. The U.S. has already deployed a naval armada close to the Hormuz Strait.

Washington has made its naval base on the Diego Garcia island the main staging area for acts of aggression in the Indian Ocean. According to THE NEW YORK TIMES, the Reagan Administration intends to spend close to one billion dollars for its expansion and modernisation. At present new runways are being built and the existing ones lengthened on the island, the harbour is being dredged to make it deeper, and ammunition depots are being set up to supply a Marine brigade numbering 18,000 officers and men. According to the Pentagon's plans, nuclear-capable B-52 bombers will be based on Diego Garcia.

LAOS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES SOVIET AWARD

PM081636 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Mar 84 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Award Presentation"]

[Text] Vientiane, 29 Feb -- The presentation of a high Soviet award -- the Order of the Red Banner -- to Army General Khamtai Siphandon, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee Politburo, deputy chairman of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] Council of Ministers, and LPDR minister of national defense, has taken place here. This award has been conferred on him for his services in strengthening friendship and cooperation between the peoples and Armed Forces of the USSR and the LPDR and in connection with his 60th birthday.

Speaking at the ceremony, K. Siphandon declared that the Lao people and the republic's Armed Forces evaluate highly the foreign policy course of the Soviet Union and fully support its constructive initiatives aimed at ensuring peace and security on earth. He emphasized that he perceives the Soviet award as recognition of the contribution of the people of Laos and their Armed Forces to the cause of strengthening peace and as a high evaluation of the herioc struggle which the country's revolutionary forces waged for long years for national liberation against American and other foreign aggressors.

At all stages of the struggle, the minister said, the Lao people constantly felt the great assistance and support of the Soviet Union. Today all-around cooperation with the USSR is helping Laos to lay the foundations of a socialist society. The Lao people intend to continue strengthening friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union. This is the cornerstone of the Lao state's foreign policy and a very important factor guaranteeing the successful building of socialism in Indochina and the preservation of peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

CULTURAL PROTOCOL WITH LAOS SIGNED IN VIENTIANE

PM081902 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 3

[TASS dispatch: "Protocol Signed"]

[Text] Vientiane, 7 Mar -- A protocol on cooperation between the USSR and Lao Ministries of Culture for 1984 has been signed here. The document envisages further expansion in Soviet-Lao cultural exchange, the organization of exhibitions of works of art, and the holding of tours by Soviet and Lao artists. The Soviet Union will give People's Laos assistance in training national cadres and will supply equipment for clubs and movie theaters.

SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL UNITY WITH SRV HAILED

OW090103 Moscow in Vietnamese to Vietnam 1300 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Friends; The following is a statement by Comrade Kudinov, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology. Comrade Kudinov said:

[Begin Kudinov recording in Russian fading into translation] Dear Vietnamese friends: An intergovernmental agreement on scientific and technical cooperation between the Soviet Union and Vietnam was signed on 7 March 1959.

Twenty-five years have elapsed since that memorable event. It can be said today, with certainty, that in no scientific and technical field has the cooperation between our two countries' scientists and specialists failed to yield significant results.

The achievements in such important domains as training Vietnamese specialists are fairly great. Over the past 25 years the Soviet Union has trained over 60,000 Vietnamese specialists and highly-skilled workers. Of these specialists, some 18,000 graduated from vocational colleges or vocational middle schools, more than 2,000 have a master's degree, and 70 have the PhD degree in science.

More than 6,000 Soviet specialists, including engineers, goelogists, agronomists, and teaching cadres have been sent to work in Vietnam.

Along with other socialist countries, the Soviet Union has taken part in building Vietnam's teaching installations and scientific research centers. With Soviet assistance, the Hanoi Polytechnic and Agriculture Colleges were built along with many large vocational middle schools.

The construction of the Nghia Do scientific research center, in Hanoi, completed in 1977, is an important factor in the scientific and technical cooperation between our two countries. Equipped with scientific equipment through Soviet assistance, it has now become a center for developed researches in physics, chemistry, biology, geology, and mathematics.

The joint Soviet-Vietnamese space flight aboard Soyuz-37, manned by Comrades Gorbatko and Pham Tuan, and their activities aboard Salyut-6 is a manifestation of high-level cooperation between the Soviet Union and Vietnam in the field of science and technology. The USSR Academy of Sciences attaches particular importance to essential joint research undertakings in the effort to resolve social problems and national economy difficulties and to build basic scientific projects. Therefore, it signed, in January 1980 with the SRV Commission for Science and Technology, a long-range cooperation plan for the 1980-85 period, the first plan in the field. The document concerns Soviet-Vietnamese cooperation on research in 27 areas of natural and social sciences, which are being intensively carried out.

Soviet and Vietnamese botanists are conducting extensive studies on Vietnam's flora, which are important scientifically and which help resolve specific problems in the SRV's national economy. Geologists and biologists in a section of the Far East Scientific Center, under the USSR Academy of Sciences, are conducting joint research with Soviet specialists. Geologists of the two countries are successfully conducting their work in drawing up an SRV atlas. Soviet scientists have provided significant assistance to Vietnamese scientists in studying the consequences of the U.S. troops' use of toxic chemicals in southern Vietnam.

Our two countries' sociologists have had all-round cooperation. Both countries have jointly published works by historians, lawyers, literature researchers, linguists, and ethnologists. Soviet and Vietnamese sociologists, philosophers, and economists have met regularly to discuss issues of our times. [end recording]

Comrade Kudinov continued: [Begin Kudinov recording in Russian fading into translation] In reviewing Soviet-Vietnamese scientific and technical cooperation over the past 25 years, we can affirm that our two countries' scientists and specialists have amassed many rich experiences, which will be of great help in the further implementation, in the future and on a large scale, of the Soviet-Vietnamese long-range program, designed to develop the economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the Soviet Union and the SRV, signed in October 1983 during a Vietnam visit by a Soviet party-government delegation.

I am confident that USSR-SRV scientific and technical cooperation will continue to develop fruitfully in the interest of our two countries, in the interest of the socialist community as a whole, along the path chartered in the resolutions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the 5th CPV Congress.

On behalf of the Soviet scientists and specialists, I wish to convey my warm greetings to all Vietnamese specialists.

Dear friends: I wish you the best of health, happiness, and great achievements in the discharge of your noble activities. [end recording]

You have just heard a statement by Comrade Kudinov, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology.

PHILIPPINES 'DEEP DISCONTENT' WITH U.S. GROWING

LD071754 Moscow TASS in English 1333 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Manila March 7 TASS -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kiselyov reports:

The growth of anti-American feelings in the Philippines evokes serious concern in Washington. This follows from a speech in the Congress by the former U.S. ambassador to the Philippines W. Sullivan. These feelings are based on deep discontent of the Philippine public over the U.S. military presence and open U.S. interference in the internal affairs of the Philippines on the eve of parliamentary elections scheduled for May 1984.

In the opinion of Sullivan, these feelings can result in the U.S. losing its positions in that developing Southeast Asian country.

In conditions of the electoral struggle gaining momentum in the Philippines, leaders of bourgeois opposition forces call ever more resolutely for the dismantling of bases of the Pentagon situated on the Philippine territory, which pose a future of that country [sentence as received]

Washington's policy aimed at drawing the Philippines into the orbit of the U.S. global policy in the south-western part of the Pacific, is fraught with the danger of the U.S. turning into the "enemy No 1" in the eyes of the Philippine people, W. Sullivan underlined.

U.S. SEEKS 'POTENTIAL SECURITY ZONE' IN PACIFIC

PM090915 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 4

[S. Chugrov "International Commentary": "Under a Pirate's Flag"]

[Text] The Pacific Ocean basin is a "potential security zone" for the United States. This is the gist of a statement delivered by Admiral W. Crowe, commander of the U.S. Armed Forces in the Pacific and Indian Ocean, on Capitol Hill during congressional hearings on the question of military appropriations. That means that Washington will annually build up its military potential, including its nuclear missile potential, in the Asian and Pacific area.

The scale of the U.S. military presence there is extremely threatening even at present -- six aircraft carrier groups bristling with the latest means of destruction, Trident submarines, the nuclear arsenal in South Korea, and the mighty contingent on the "unsinkable aircraft carrier" -- the Japanese islands. The Pentagon has assigned a special role to the deployment of about 50 U.S. nuclear-capable F-16 fighter-bombers at the U.S. Air Base at Misawa in the north of Honshu Island.

Admiral Crowe's bellicose statement is a kind of "Pacific charter" -- a stage in the formulation of U.S. military doctrine that is turning this vast area into a dangerous hotbed of tension. Besides a massive increase in its own Armed Forces in the Pacific, the Pentagon envisages clearly defined functions for its allies -- Japan, South Korea, and Thailand. Japan has been instructed to concentrate its efforts on antisubmarine and air defense to be able -- "in emergency" -- to conduct military operations within a radius of 1,000 nautical miles from its shores and also to blockade the international La Perouse, Tsugaru, and Korea Straits. To put it plainly, the role of an appendage of the U.S. 7th Fleet lies in store for the Japanese Armed Forces in the Pentagon's scenario. South Korea is regarded by this strategy as a military bridgehead against the DPRK and other Asian countries.

It is worth noting that Admiral Crowe especially highlighted utilization of the "Chinese factor" as an integral part of U.S. "political and military plans" in the Pacific area. The arguments he produced in favor of this were, in particular, that Beijing favors the preservation and strengthening of NATO, opposes the USSR, and is interested in obtaining Western technology.

The White House has already declared the Caribbean and the Near East a zone of U.S. "vital interests." What this has entailed is well known: Sovereign states' rights have been crushed, the blood of completely innocent people is being shed, and conflicts are being stirred up...The United States also considers the Indian Ocean a sphere of its "vital interests." Admiral Crowe's statement shed light on the reasons why the U.S. Administration broke off Soviet-American talks on the limitation and subsequent reduction of military activity in this area.

Under the flag of turning the Pacific Ocean into a "potential zone of U.S. security," the Pentagon admiral is essentially advocating a buildup of the threat to the security of the Soviet Union and the entire Asian Continent. This flag of the admiral's is nothing but the banner of the piratical policy under which the White House wants to gather its minions.

USTINOV GREETS GDR COUNTERPART ON ARMY JUBILEE

PM081900 KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Mar 84 Second Edition p 1

[Text] To Army General Comrade H. Hoffmann, GDR minister of national defense:

Esteemed comrade minister!

On behalf of the Soviet Armed Forces and on my own behelf, I send you and all GDR servicemen fraternal combat greetings and cordial congratulations on the 28th anniversary of the National People's Army.

The National People's Army personnel are marking their holiday with high indicators in fulfilling the decisions of the 10th SED Congress on further strengthening their motherland's defense capability.

The successes of the GDR servicemen in improving their combat expertise attest to the fact that the National People's Army is ready to honorably fulfill its patriotic duty to defend the socialist gains of the Republic's working people and, along with the other Warsaw Pact armies, ensure the reliable security of our fraternal peoples.

I wish the entire personnel of the GDR National People's Army new successes in combat and political training for the benefit of strengthening the defense might of their own motherland and the entire socialist community.

With communist greetings,

Marshal of the Soviet Union D. Ustinov, USSR defense minister

PONOMAREV RECEIVES HUNGARY'S GASPAR, MEHES

LD081449 Moscow in Hungarian to Hungary 2000 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Boris Ponomarev, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received MSZMP Politburo members, Comrade Sandor Gaspar, president of the National Trade Union Council [SZOT], and Lajos Mehes, secretary general of SZOT, on 7 March in Moscow.

The talks took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

MARKOVIC-KADAR MEETING ON ARMS RACE, COOPERATION

LD081507 Moscow TASS in English 1318 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Belgrade March 8 TASS -- Dragoslav Markovic, president of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, and Janos Kadar, first secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Worker's Party, paying an official visit of friendship to Yugoslavia, stressed at their meeting here the need for vigorous efforts to curb the arms race and to promote disarmament, peace, and international cooperation.

Markovic pointed out in his statement that in resolving outstanding international problems, Yugoslavia proceeds from the assumption that the world has no alternative to lessening tension and practising constructive international cooperation on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence. The Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, he said, is called upon to make a major contribution to the cause of peace and security in Europe and all over the world.

Hungary, Janos Kadar said, is seriously worried by the aggravation of the international situation because of the aggressive actions of the imperialist forces, in particular, the deployment of new U.S. nuclear missiles in West Germany. It is our conviction, however, he noted, that it is possible to avert the threat to peace and to secure arms reductions on the basis of the principle of equality and equal security through rallying closer together all the progressive and peace forces. A realistic way to these goals is pointed by the peace initiatives of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, including their proposal on the mutual non-use of armed force and the maintenance of relations of peace between the Warsaw Treaty and NATO countries, these proposals fully meet the interests of all the peoples of the world.

The sides also discussed the further extension of cooperation between the two countries and parties.

Communique on Visit Results

LD0822Z0 Moscow TASS in English 2128 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Belgrade March 8 TASS -- Yugoslavia and Hungary back all constructive initiatives directed at easing international tension, limiting and ending the arms race, and strengthening confidence and cooperation between peoples, says a joint communique, out here, on the result of the official visit to Yugoslavia by First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party Janos Kadar and his talks with Chairman of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia Dragoslav Markovic and Chairman of the Presidium of Yugoslavia Mika Spiljak.

The sides voiced concern over the present aggravation of the international situation and escalation of the arms race that threaten peace and peoples' security. It is particularly important in this situation that all states, peace loving, progressive and democratic forces, actively participate in re-invigorating the process of detente and overcoming negative trends in international relations. They expressed confidence that the further assertion of the policy of peaceful coexistence is a stable basis for cooperation of all states, irrespective of their social system.

The sides noted the successful development of cooperation between the League of Communists of Yugoslavia and the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, between Yugoslavia and Hungary in all areas, and stated that there are favorable conditions for its further broadening.

ZAMYATIN, CHERVOV MEET ITALIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS

LD081936 Moscow TASS in English 1834 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Rome March 8 TASS -- A conversation has been held at the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian parliament, chaired by Giorgio la Malfa, the commission's chairman, with member of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Zamyatin and head of the department of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces Col.-Gen. Nikolay Chervov on issues of European security and some other problems of the international situation. On the same day, Leonid Zamyatin and Nikolay Chervov met with the Senate Foreign Affairs Commission chairman, Emilio Paolo Taviani.

The USSR's Ambassador to Italy Nikolay Lunkov took part in the conversations.

FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY AIDE MEETS WITH MALTSEV

PM082121 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 3

[TASS report under the general heading "Consultations at the USSR Foreign Ministry"]

[Text] In accordance with the established practice of consultations between the USSR and Finnish foreign ministries, S. Pietinen, chief of the Finnish Foreign Ministry Political Department, was in Moscow 5-7 March. He had conversations at the USSR Foreign Ministry on topical international problems and certain questions of Soviet-Finnish relations.

S. Pietinen was received by V.F. Maltsev, first deputy USSR foreign minister.

MOSCOW SOIREE MARKS 60 YEARS OF TIES WITH GREECE

PM082117 Moscow IZVESTIYA In Russian 7 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 8

[TASS report under the general heading "Official Reports"]

[Text] The relations of mutual trust, friendship, and multifaceted cooperation between the USSR and Greece correspond to the long-term interests of their peoples and effectively serve the cause of peace, security, and detente in Europe and throughout the world. This was stated on 5 March in Moscow at a public soiree devoted to the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

It was emphasized at the soiree that since the establishment of these relations the Soviet state has consistently advocated the strengthening of manifold links with Greece on the basis of equality and mutual advantage.

The meeting was attended by A. Metaxas, the Greek ambassador to the USSR.

USSR-Greece Relations Hailed

LD071601 Moscow TASS in English 1326 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Athens March 7 TASS -- Correspondent Anatoliy Tkachuk reports:

Sixty years ago, March 8, 1924 the Soviet Union and Greece established diplomatic relations. Greece was among the first capitalist states to recognize officially Soviet Russia.

"This recognition, which had been advocated by the Communist Party of Greece since its foundation in 1918, was meeting the political and economic interests of Greece", Harilaos Florakis, general secretary of the Communist Party of Greece Central Committee, told journalists. "The Soviet Union was the sole state which renounced the policy of the predatory international economic control imposed on our country by major powers of that period."

"Moreover, the Greek people could see for themselves over the past years that friendship with the USSR and stronger Greek-Soviet relations meet the interests of both nations and the cause of world peace, facilitates Greece's struggle for national independence, democracy and social progress."

"The official visit by Nikolay Tikhonov, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the CPSU, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, to Greece in February 1983 and the signing of the long-term programme of the development of the economic, industrial, scientific and technological cooperation has become a remarkable milestone in the development of trade and economic relations between Greece and the Soviet Union", Costis Veitsos, deputy minister in the rank of minister of the national economy, told journalists. "In this way we are striving to place our relations on a stable and long-term basis. We pay attention to broadening and deepening economic, scientific and technological contacts." Costis Veitsos expressed conviction that Greek-Soviet relations will be progressing both quantatively and qualitatively. "Joint ventures in the construction of industrial and power generating projects are high on the list of priorities", he stressed.

U.S. PRESSURES NETHERLANDS TO SITE MISSILES

LD081800 Moscow TASS in English 1632 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The Hague March 8 TASS -- By TASS correspondent Oleg Pivovarov:

The United States is mouting pressure on the Netherlands in order to compel this country to agree to the deployment of American cruise missiles on its territory. Dutch ministers are "invited" for conversations to Washington, American representatives and high-ranking visitors from other NATO countries are laying siege to The Hague.

The Dutch Government has not as yet given its consent to the stationing of 48 American cruise missiles on the country's territory, as envisaged by NATO's decision of December 1979. According to a government statement, the final decision on this issue will be made not later than June this year.

"America does not press us" is the essence of the latest government declarations. According to press reports, NATO, and specifically the United States, are persistently demanding that the Netherlands "not forget" its "allied commitments" when adopting a decision on the missiles, even if the country's overwhelming majority of the population are opposed to the missile deployment. According to a recent public opinion poll, 63 per cent of the Netherlands' adult population are categorically opposed to the appearance of the American missiles on Dutch soil.

The American Administration and the NATO leadership, as all signs indicate, warn that they will not tolerate the Netherlands refusing to accept the missiles. In the Netherlands, as pressure on the country is growing, resistance to this pressure is mounting too. Johannes M. den Uyl, leader of the Labour Party which has the greatest number of seats in parliament, said that even if the government decided in favour of the missile deployment, the new government which might include the Labour Party would seek its cancellation.

ISRAELI COMBAT OPERATIONS IN LEBANON CONTINUE

LD081611 Moscow TASS in English 1423 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Beirut March 8 TASS -- TASS correspondent O. Zuyenko reports: The Israeli military has staged another flagrant provocation against Lebanon. An Israeli mechanized convoy, consisting of four Merkava tanks, 12 armoured personnel carriers and several trucks, yesterday crossed the Awali River and moved deep into Lebanese territory. The vehicles were covered from the air by helicopters, and Israeli missile boats cruised off the Lebanese coast all the time. The local press says in this connection that Israeli so-called "pre-emptive raids" have become more frequent after National Patriotic Forces established control over a number of mountainous districts south of Beirut. Imitating the start of another aggression, the Tel Aviv Zionist leadership tries to bring pressure to bear on the National Patriotic Forces of Lebanon in order to prevent radical social and political changes in this country after the abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement of May 17, 1983.

In the south of Lebanon, patriots are continuing to deal blows to Israeli occupation troops. Yesterday they attacked an Israeli patrol in An-Nabatiyah, inflicting manpower and materiel losses on the enemy. The Israelis opened indiscriminate fire, wounding several civilians. Wholesale round-ups and arrests were carried out in the villages Kalilah, Anqun, Kfar-Tibnit and Khalussiyah, whose inhabitants are holding a strike in protests against the occupation regime's atrocities. In Sayda, where patriots conducted several successful operations in the past few days, the Israelies are continuing to block the port and keep away ships carrying loads of food for the city's population.

Busy political consultations are taking place in Beirut between representatives of all sides which in the near future will participate in the second stage of the Conference on National Reconciliation in Switzerland.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES CHERNENKO CONGRATULATIONS

JN072347 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2215 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus -- President Hafiz al-Asad has received a cable from Comrade Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU, and the Soviet leadership expressing satisfaction with the news about reaching an agreement with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil on abrogating the 17 May accord that the United States and Isreal tried to impose on Lebanon. Both Chernenko and the Soviet leadership describe the decision to abrogate the accord as a peaceful step that calls for great satisfaction, and one that constitutes a victory for the Arab cause. The cable from Comrade Chernenko and the Soviet leadership values the Syrian leadership's role in achieving the abrogation of this accord of submission.

IRAQI, IRANIAN BATTLE REPORTS FOR 8 MARCH

LD081337 Moscow TASS in English 1303 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad March 8 TASS -- Iraqi units attacked Iranian forward positions east of Basra, inflicting considerable manpower and materiel losses on the enemy, the Iraqi High Military Command said in a communique. Iraqi aviation was also active in that area. Two Iranian helicopters were shot down. Iranian troops suffered losses also on the front's central section.

Iranian shellings of the cities of Basra, Mandali, Khanaqin, Zorbatiyah and Sayyid Sadiq caused civilian casualties and damaged a number of civilian projects.

Nicosia March 8 TASS -- Artillery exchanges took place on the front's southern and central sections yesterday, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. The shoot-outs were especially intensive in the area of Qasr-e Shirin. On the front's southern section, the news agency said, Iranian troops beat back enemy attacks.

Iranian artillery bombarded the city of Abadan. [as received]

THATCHER: UK VESSELS MAY JOIN U.S. IN GULF

LD082256 Moscow World Service in English 2200 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, has announced in Parliament that British naval vessels may join the American Fleet in the Persian Gulf. As is known, on the pretext of protecting its so-called vital interests in the region, the United States has concentrated a formidable naval force there. The statement published by the Soviet news agency TASS on Wednesday says actions taken by the United States in the Persian Gulf are a serious threat to peace and international security.

U.S. PRESS ON PENTAGON'S PERSIAN GULF PLANS

LD081732 Moscow TASS in English 1348 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] New York March 8 TASS -- The U.S. press and public voice serious worry over the action taken by the Washington administration in the Persian Gulf, where it has massed dozens of warships under the pretext of protecting the interests of the West.

The threat of U.S. armed intervention in the Persian Gulf, the newspaper NEW YORK TIMES points out, in particular, has become a dangerous reality. It is openly pointed out today by Pentagon and White House officials. According to them, U.S. armed intervention alone will secure the West an uninterrupted flow of oil, which, according to them, is vitally important to the "free world". The newspaper says in this context that the United States, far from securing shipping, will further escalate dangerous tension by these actions.

S. Hunter, an expert on Mid-Eastern problems with the Georgetown Centre for Strategic and International Studies, warns in the newspaper CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR against the possible consequences of the U.S. acts of aggression in the Persian Gulf. U.S. armed intervention in that region may provoke a very dangerous international conflict there, the author says. He also points out that any U.S. armed action in the Persian Gulf will have a very adverse effect on its relations with all the Arab countries.

U.S. 'MILITARIST' BUILDUP IN PERSIAN GULF CITED

LD082214 Moscow TASS in English 2122 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] New York March 8 TASS -- American and British naval units, which have approached the Strait of Hormuz within a firing distance, have been placed on high alert, the newspaper PHILADELPHIA ENQUIRER reports. According to the paper, which quotes Western official military spokesmen, several versions of combat operations have been devised, starting from the use of fighter-planes to escort oil tankers passing through the strait to a full-scale attack on Iranian military targets.

The PHILADELPHIA ENQUIRER stresses that a year ago American strategists and military experts from Britain started working out measures to counter possible Iranian actions with regard to the Strait of Hormuz. By escalating militarist preparations in the Persian Gulf area, where about thirty U.S. warships led by the aircraft carrier Midway have been concentrated, Washington is seeking to confirm by the extensive show to force its imperialist claims to the Persian Gulf, a region proclaimed by the United States a zone of its "vital interests."

PPR HOLDS U.S. 'RESPONSIBLE' FOR GULF SITUATION

LD091020 Moscow TASS in English 0907 GMT 9 Mar 84

["PAP Statement on Situation in Persian Gulf" -- PAP headline]

[Text] Warsaw 8 March -- Reports from the Gulf region are more and more alarming. Following the massive concentration of the U.S. Navy and aircraft units on both sides of the Strait of Hormuz, the dangerous tension in the region has increased, thus creating a situation bearing the signs of a serious international conflict.

Like in other regions of the Near and Middle East, this source of tension in international relations emerged as a result of the brutal and blunt attempt by the United States to interfere in the development of events also in this region.

It is not for the first time and not in this part of the world alone that the U.S. Government usurps the right to decide the issues of other countries and nations, situated far from the American territory. These moves, running counter to the nation's will, are a logical consequence of the imperialist arrogance, which, within the framework of the so-called U.S. vital interests doctrine, can often be noticed, with its tragic impact, in various parts of our globe. It is but a justification for the policy of dictate which the United States does not cease to pursue in international relations, in its strive for satisfying its imperialist ambitions.

The massive demonstration of the U.S. Armed Forces in the Gulf region that is now going on under the pretext of securing "free navigation", alongside the U.S. arbitrary limitations both in navigation and in civil aircraft flights, are yet another attempt at the implementation of the above-mentioned doctrine in the Gulf region.

At the same time, one should definitely stress that those moves by the United States violate international legal norms concerning deep sea navigation and civil aircraft flights above the sea. What is especially dangerous is the fact that the U.S. combines these moves with threats to use armed force against those who "dare" violate the above arbitrary American instructions are principles on navigation and flights.

The Polish People's Republic [PPR] holds the U.S. Government entirely responsible for a possible dangerous outcome of this policy, which, by way of illegal interference in the gulf developments, creates another dangerous hotbed of conflict and tension in this sensitive part of the world.

NICARAGUA PROTEST NOTE TO UN ON CIA ACTIVITY

LD082012 Moscow TASS in English 1814 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] New York March 8 TASS -- Nicaragua has stated a resolute protest to the United States over the escalation of aggressive actions against that Central American country by CIA mercenaries.

A letter sent by Nicaragua's Foreign Affairs Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, circulated here as an official document of the UN Security Council, draws attention to yet another dangerous foray of the counter-revolutionaries. According to the letter, "terrorists organized, financed, and directed by the United States Government through the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) made a statement to the effect that they had mined Corinto Port" on March first. The Nicaraguan foreign minister recalls in this connection that similar criminal actions at El Bluff Port had already caused casualties. These actions "reveal the essence of the U.S. Government's plans to set up a naval blockade of Nicaragua and expand the scope of aggression against my country and heighten tension in Central America."

SUPREME SOVIET TO CONVENE IN MOSCOW 11 APRIL

LD090810 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has decreed, on the basis of Article 124 of the USSR Constitution, to convene the first session of the USSR Supreme Soviet of the 11th convocation on 11 April 1984 in Moscow.

COMPARISON OF CHERNENKO CERTIFICATE CEREMONY

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 8 March in its First Edition front-pages a TASS report under the heading "Presentation of Certificate of Election as USSR Supreme Soviet Deputy to K.U. Chernenko". This has been compared to Moscow Domestic Service Version published on page R7 of the 3 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, revealing the following variation:

PRAVDA begins: [Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Elections were new evidence of the indestructible unity of the Communist Party and the people, of the triumph of socialist democracy, and of Soviet people's loyalty to the Communist Party's course toward the further flourishing of the motherland and the consolidation of its economic and defense mights.

On March 7, a certificate of...(supplying additional passage)

PONOMAREV ADDRESSES KALININ OBLAST ELECTORATE

PM081501 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Feb 84 First Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Election Meetings"]

[Text] Voters' meetings with candidate Deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities Boris Nikolayevich Ponomarev, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee have been held in Novgorod and Pskov. He is running in the Kalininskiy Electoral Okrug which, besides Kalinin Oblast, comprises also Novgorod and Pskov Oblasts.

Addressing the voters, the candidate deputy noted the successes achieved by the Soviet people under the leadership of the Communist Party in strengthening the country's political, economic, and defense might.

B.N. Ponomarev expressed confidence that the Novgorod and Pskov Oblast working people will multiply their efforts in the struggle to implement the party's designs and fulfill and overfulfill the 4-year-plan targets, adopting the propositions and conclusions contained in Comrade K.U. Chernenko's speech at the CPSU Central Committee February (1984) Plenum as a strict guideline.

During his stay in Kalinin, Novgorod, and Pskov, B.N. Ponomarev met with the leaders of party, soviet, and economic organizations in those cities and oblasts. In Kalinin he acquainted himself with housing developments under construction, and in Pskov he visited the long-distance communication equipment plant whose collective had nominated him candidate deputy of the country's supreme organ of state power.

COHESION, UNITY OF PARTY, PEOPLE HAILED

PM082100 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Mar 84 Second Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Unity and Cohesion"]

[Text] Our country is on the threshold of the USSR Supreme Soviet elections. Preparations for this great political event have been marked by high activeness on the part of the working people of the masses in all fields of public life. Vivid evidence of this are the voters' meetings with candidate deputies to the supreme organ of state power.

The Communist Party is going into the elections, as before, in close alliance with nonparty people. This alliance is the embodiment of the unbreakable unity of party and people and the monolithic cohesion of socialist society. This unity and cohesion have been and still are the inexhaustible source of our motherland's might and progress.

Let us look back in our mind's eye at the history of the Soviet state. Even in the first years of its existence workers and peasants, united under the party banner, defended the revolution from the onslaught of the foreign interventionists and the White Guards, and later implemented the Leninist plan for building socialism. We should not forget the incredibly difficult trials of the Great Patriotic War. Our country, turned by the party into a united military camp, won a world-famous victory over fascism. In the years that followed, the efforts of the party and the people were marked by new achievements in socialist building crowned by the developed socialist society built in our country.

Take the last 5 years since the previous USSR Supreme Soviet elections. In this period the Soviet economy has risen to a new level. National income has increased 18.6 percent. The material and spiritual standard of Soviet people's lives has risen. Real per capita income has increased by 13 percent. The political system of Soviet society is being improved. The union of workers, peasants, and intelligentsia, and the fraternal friendship between the peoples of the USSR are growing stronger. Socialist democracy is developing and deepening, and working people's participation in running the affairs of state and society is being expanded.

Soviet people link all our country's achievements to the multifaceted activity of Lenin's party -- society's leading and directing force. It is profoundly aware of its historic role and responsibility for the country's fate, is striving to have an ever more effective influence on the course of social progress, and is improving the forms and methods of the party's leadership of society. There is nothing loftier and dearer to the CPSU than the interests of the people and the welfare and happiness of the working man. That is why party policy receives ardent nationwide support and why working people's enthusiasm for implementing its decisions is so high.

Today the people's persistent labor and creative searches are aimed at fulfilling the great and complex tasks put forward by the 26th CPSU Congress and the subsequent plenums of its Central Committee. A new boost was given to labor and social enthusiasm in the country by the extraordinary CPSU Central Committee February Plenum. It convincingly demonstrated the party's resolve to strictly follow the Leninist path, the close cohesion of its ranks, and the indestructible unity of party and people. Stressing the continuity of the party's principled course -- the course of communist creation and peace -- the plenum revealed the tasks of the economic, social, and spiritual progress of Soviet society at the contemporary stage.

The party assesses what has been achieved realistically, talks openly about urgent problems, and asks the people's advice on how best to solve them. That approach is also typical of the current electoral campaign.

As is well known, thanks to the party's great organizational and political work and the people's strenuous labor, in 1983 economic growth rates have quickened, and production of industrial and agricultural output has increased. This reaffirms the correctness of the measures worked out by the party for improving our management, and for enhancing organization and discipline. Approving and supporting the outlined course, Soviet people are fully resolved to maintain their momentum and their general mood for the practical resolution of tasks. They are striving to significantly enhance production efficiency, labor productivity, and the effectiveness of socialist competition, and to make a worthy contribution to strengthening the motherland's economic and defense might.

The CPSU's foreign policy course is an expression of the vital interests and will of the people. Through the fault of ultrareactionary imperialist forces the current international situation has seriously deteriorated. Staking their claim to world domination, U.S. ruling circles have unleashed an unbridled arms race, and want to dictate their will to sovereign states by force of arms. The United States and its NATO allies are overtly trying to alter to their own advantage the military equilibrium in Europe and throughout the globe. But this shall not be!

Our party and people clearly see the threat being created by the rash, adventurist actions of the aggressive imperialist forces, and are taking retaliatory measures. In his speech at the CPSU Central Committee February Plenum Comrade K.U. Chernenko stressed: "We do not require military supremacy, we do not intend to dictate our will to others, but we will not permit the military equilibrium that has been achieved to be smashed. And let nobody have the slightest doubt that we will continue to be concerned to strengthen our country's defense capability in order to have sufficient resources to be able to cool the hot heads of belligerent adventurists."

The CPSU's concern for the motherland's security, and for maintaining and consolidating peace finds an ardent response in the hearts of all Soviet people and of Army and Navy servicemen. They well realize that the development of international events demands of them heightened responsibility for the task entrusted to them, and discipline and organization in labor and in public life.

The lofty responsibility for the motherland's defense rests with the Soviet Armed forces. The CPSU Central Committee appeal to all voters and USSR citizens, when addressing the servicemen of the Soviet Army and Navy, says: "The party and the people call on you to improve your combat expertise and training, and to persistently master formidable weaponry and modern equipment. Carry out your sacred duty to the motherland worthily, and always be on the alert!" Soviet servicemen are answering this call with strenuous martial labor, new successes in socialist competition, a further stengthening of discipline and regulation order, and an increase in vigilance and combat readiness.

Soviet people and the servicemen of our Armed Forces are greeting the USSR Supreme Soviet elections -- a portentous event in the country's life -- closely rallied around Lenin's party, their leader and combat vanguard. Herein is the guarantee of new successes in resolving the tasks of creating communism.

ARBATOV ADDRESSES VOTERS IN AZERBAIJAN

PM082045 Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 21 Feb 84 p 3

[AZERINFORM report: "For the Sake of World Peace. Voters' Meeting with G.A. Arbatov."]

[Excerpts] Shemakha, 20 Feb -- The voters of Shemakhinskiy Electoral Okrug for the elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities have declared the Soviet people's unanimous determination to work even more dedicatedly for the further prosperity of the motherland and for the strengthening of world peace. In the rayon House of Culture they met with their candidate deputy for the country's supreme organ of state power, Academician Georgiy Arkadyevich Arbatov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and director of the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of the United States and Canada. The meeting was opened by Shemakhinskiy Raykom First Secretary F. Mustafeyev.

The meeting was addressed by G.A. Arbatov. He wholeheartedly thanked the okrug's working people for their confidence and noted that it was dur primarily to the Communist Party and its Central Committee which place the interests of the people and concern for preserving peace and international security above all else.

The current election campaign, he said, is taking place in conditions where Communists and the entire Soviet people are rallying their ranks even more closely around the CPSU Central Committee and the Central Committee Politburo, and are totally determined to struggle selflessly to implement the party's Leninist domestic and foreign policy. This was manifested most strikingly during the mourning period, the period of nationwide grief in connection with the death of Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov. The universal approval of the decisions of the extraordinary February CPSU Central Committee Plenum which elected Comrade K.U. Chernenko as Central Commitee general secretary was an expression of a desire for the even closer cohesion of party and people. The plenum clearly stated our party's intention to ensure continuity in policy and to continue the course elaborated by the 26th CPSU Congress toward improving developed socialism.

As is known, the economy is the decisive sphere of the party and people's struggle to build a communist society. Therefore we are bound to derive satisfaction from the positive changes that have occurred in this sphere. Talking about this, Comrade Arbatov dwelled on the successes of the country's working people in the 3d year of the 5-year plan to which Soviet Azerbaijan made a worthy contribution. The republic, he said, has embarked confidently on the tasks of the 4th year of the 5-year plan. But one must not rest on one's laurels. The successes would have been even greater if all the sectors and all the labor collectives had made fuller use of existing opportunities for improving production efficiency.

The CPSU Central Committee demands that we realistically evaluate what has been achieved without exaggerating it, but, of course, without minimizing it. It is important, comrades, to go forward while attending to every bottleneck. After all, the better we work the richer and more powerful our motherland becomes and the more quickly the well-being of the people and of every USSR citizen improves.

Analyzing the results achieved by the Shemakha farmers and stockmen, Comrade Arbatov warmly congratulated the meeting's participants on the award of a CPSU Central Committee USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU and Komsomol Central Committee Challenge Red Banner to Shemakhinskiy Rayon for winning the all-union socialist competition in 1983 and hoped that they would continue to be in the vanguard of the nationwide struggle to carry out the party's plans.

Comrade Arbatov devoted a considerable part of his speech to international problems. The implementation of the Leninst peace strategy unswervingly upheld by our party and state, he stressed, is taking place in an international situation that has deteriorated. This is primarily due to the actions of the most reactionary forces of imperialism, above all U.S. imperialism, which is trying to counter the policy of detente, the strengthening of the socialist countries' international positions, and the development of the national liberation movement, with a course toward intensification of military preparations, interference in other peoples' internal affairs and fueling of international tension.

Having banked on the destruction of the existing balance of military forces between the USSR and the United States and between the Warsaw Pact and NATO, western reactionary circles have launched a new round of the arms race, one of unprecedented scale and of long duration. They have put forward a series of aggressive doctrines for waging nuclear wars -- brief and protracted, limited and general. Over a 5-year period the United States expects to spend more than $2 trillion on large-scale programs for the production of fundamentally new types of weapons.

The United States is declaring extensive areas of the world its "sphere of vital interests." These imperial ambitions are making themselves felt in ever grosser interference in the affairs of other countries and peoples, in the kindling of hotbeds of tension and conflicts, and in mushrooming manifestations of arbitrariness in international affairs. This policy is particularly evident in the Near East. New dangers to peace have emerged in the European Continent as a result of the deployment of U.S. missiles that has begun on the territory of a number of West European states.

In the conditions that are taking shape the Soviet Union is struggling even more vigorously against the threat of war and is using its entire political and moral potential to prevent a further deterioration in the situation and to preserve world peace. The realistic ways of easing the threat of war, bringing back a relaxation of international tension in the world, and developing broad cooperation between states with different social systems are laid down in the numerous initiatives put forward since the 26th CPSU Congress. The CPSU Central Committee February (1984) Plenum confirmed most clearly our party's readiness to continue the struggle for lasting peace, freedom and independence for the people and to pursue an active foreign policy geared to delivering mankind from the threat of a nuclear world war.

Talking about the aggressive, militarist policy of the U.S., Comrade Arbatov stressed that it is encountering growing resistance on the part of many states and it is giving rise to a growing mass antiwar movement.

During the period of Soviet power we have experienced much -- overt armed intervention by the West, an economic blockade, fascist aggression, cold war and other forms of pressure aimed at changing our system. At the same time, we have many examples of mutually advantageous cooperation between states with different social systems. Experience shows how large the fruits of cooperation can be and what a price one has to pay for unbridled hostility.

Every Soviet person can contribute to preserving world peace, to strengthening our motherland's defense capability. In an international situation that has deteriorated through the fault of the aggressive imperialist circles, the unswerving fulfillment of the state plan is not only an obligation, but the patriotic duty of Soviet people, of every labor collective, and of every party and public organization.

G.A. Arbatov gave assurances that he would make every effort to justify the people's confidence worthily.

The meeting was attended by F.G. Akhamedov, deputy chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers.

ALIYEV ARRIVES IN BAKU TO MEET VOTERS

PM081903 Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 21 Feb 84 p 1

[AZERINFORM report: "Comrade G.A. Aliyev Arrives in Baku"]

[Text] G.A. Aliyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, arrived in Baku on 20 February.

Comrade G.A. Aliyev is to meet with the voters of Baku-Leninskiy Electoral Okrug where he was nominated USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union candidate deputy.

At Baku airport G.A. Aliyev was greeted by Comrades K.M. Bagirov, O.A. Bagirov, G.A. Gasanov, S.Ch. Kasumova, V.N. Konovalov. I.A. Mamedov, R.E. Mekhtiyev, F.E. Musayev, G.N. Seidov, S.B. Tatliyev, Z.M. Yusif-Zade, D.M. Muslim-Zade, L.Kh. Rasulova, C.Sh. Efendiyev; B.P. Bugayev, USSR minister of civil aviation; Colonel General V.M. Arkhipov, commander of the Red Banner Transcaucasus Military District troops; V.A. Kondratyev, department chief at the CPSU Central Committee Organizational Party Work Department, B.F. Sidorov, instructor at the CPSU Central Committee Organizational Party Work Department; D.M. Asanov, A.D. Lemberanskiy, A.N. Mutalibov, Sh.A. Rasi-Zade and G.V. Shcheglov, deputy chairmen of the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers: Col Gen V.K. Kirilyuk, chief of staff of the Red Banner Transcaucasus Military District, and Lieutenant General A.I. Shirinkin, member of the military council and chief of the Political Directorate of the Red Banner Transcaucasus Military District.

ALIYEV SPEAKS TO AZERBAIJAN RAILROAD AKTIV

PM081200 Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 23 Feb 84 p 1

[AZERINFORM report: "Combat Tasks of the Steel Artery's Working People. Azerbaijan Railroad Aktiv Meeting"]

[Text] The sector's tasks in light of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) and extraordinary plenums were discussed at an aktiv meeting of Azerbaijan railroad workers.

A.P. Platonov, chief of the Azerbaijan railroad administration, reported on the results of the activity of the working people of the republic's steel artery in the 3d year of the 5-year plan and on the problems they are resolving in further improving the work of railroad transporation. He gave an assurance that the sector's workers will multiply their efforts in the struggle to scale new heights in socialist competition and are fully resolved to fulfill with honor the great and responsible tasks set them by the party and the government.

Warmly greeted by those assembled, G.A. Aliyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, addressed the meeting.

The widespread election campaign in our country, he said, is taking place under the sign of implementing the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) and extraordinary plenums. Labor collectives everywhere are adopting new pledges aimed at further improving production effiency and all economic and social activity.

Speaking about the key problems being resolved by the country's railroad transportation workers, Comrade Aliyev emphasized that positive trends became apparent last year in improving the sector's activity. It is important now not to stop at what has been achieved but to go further, consolidating success and creating conditions for ensuring the rhythmic, uninterrupted, and efficient working of the railroad, which plays an important role in successfully resolving the tasks facing the Soviet economy.

The Azerbaijan railroad, which occupies an important place in the republic's national economic complex, has a rich and glorious history. A few years ago we celebrated its centenary, in which connection your collective was presented with the motherland's high award -- the order of the October Revolution. A special role belonged to Azerbaijan railmen in developing the revolutionary movement in Transcaucasia and in fulfilling the targets of the first 5-year plans. They displayed real heroism and courage in the Great Patriotic War years, when they supplied the front with petroleum products and other important freight under difficult conditions. Both in the postwar period and in our time the working people of the republic's steel artery have achieved considerable successes.

Railmen in Azerbiajan, just as throughout the country, are surrounded with great respect and honor. The very name of this profession is associated with concepts such as selflessness, high discipline, and organization.

Unfortunately, Comrade Aliyev went on to emphasize, in recent years the Azerbaijan railroad began to yield its positions. However, thanks to the energetic measures taken by the Azerbaijan Communist Party Committee, the strengthening of labor and production discipline in collectives, and the enhancement of organization and order, the situation has been rectified. At the same time, the railroad's workers still have many reserves for further improving their work and attaining foremost positions in the country. In this connection G.A. Aliyev drew attention to the importance of steadily raising labor productivity at railroad enterprises and reducing the prime cost of transportation operations. It is necessary to ensure the unconditional fulfillment of the plan for transporting the whole range of freight to improve in every possible way the work of passenger transportation, the standard of services for the population, and the moral and psychological atmosphere in the collectives of this subdivision, and to ensure exact observance of the train timetable.

Serious attention must be devoted to ensuring traffic safety and the good state of preservation of the freight being transported. It is necessary to tackle in earnest the further development of the railroad network in Azerbaijan and, in particular, to step up work on constructing the Yevlakh-Belokany branch line. Much has to be done to improve the selection, placing, and education of cadres, to train them, and to raise their qualifications. It is important to strengthen in every possible way cooperation between railmen and other transportation subdivisions in the republic.

In conclusion G.A. Aliyev expressed confidence that the discussion which had taken place at the aktiv meeting would serve to mobilize the Azerbaijan railroad's labor collectives to successfully fulfill the party's demands and that the workers of the republic's steel artery will achieve weighty results in fulfilling the plans and socialist pledges of the 4th year and the whole 5-year plan and will march in the front ranks of the splendid Army of Soviet railmen.

The meeting was attended by K.M. Bagirov, first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee; G.N. Seidov, chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers; G.A. Gasanov, secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee; F.E. Musayev, first secretary of Baku Gorkom; Z.M. Yusif-Zade, chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR KGB; and A.D. Lemberanskiy, deputy chairman of the republic Council of Ministers.

BELORUSSIAN OFFICIALS GREET GROMYKO IN MINSK

PM071431 Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA in Russian 28 Feb 84 p 1

[BELTA report: "Comrade A.A. Gromyko's Arrival in Minsk"]

[Text] A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and USSR foreign minister, arrived in Minsk 27 February.

At the airport he was warmly welcomed by Comrades N.N. Slyunkov, I.Ye. Polyakov, V.I. Brovikov, G.G. Bartoshevich, V.G. Baluyev, Ye.F. Ivanovskiy, N.L. Snezhkova, and Belorussian Foreign Minister A.Ye. Gurinovich.

The guest was presented with flowers.

WORLD LEADERS' GREETINGS TO CHERNENKO

PDPA's Karmal

PM050902 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 84 Second Edition p 2

["Congratulations to Comrade K.U. Chernenko in Connection with his Election as CPSU Central Committee general secretary" -- PRAVDA headline]

[Text] Dear Konstantin Ustinovich: Allow me to express my heartfelt and sincere congratulations on your election to the high rank of general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee.

The PDPA and the people of Afghanistan consider the CPSU, the party of the great Lenin, as a strong bulwark of the forces of peace and progress in the struggle for the freedom and independence of the peoples and for a glittering future for all mankind. We once again affirm our unbreakable solidarity with the peace-loving foreign policy which has been consistently put into action by the Central Committee of the Soviet Leninist party and by the Soviet Government toward preventing nuclear catastrophe, preserving and consolidating international peace, and expanding cooperation based on equal rights and mutual benefit between the peoples.

In Afghanistan, you, Konstantin Ustinovich, are known as an outstanding personality of the CPSU and of the Soviet state, the talented organizer of the masses, true costruggler of Leonid I. Brezhnev and Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, a relentless Leninist and internationalist, and a great and sincere friend of the people of Afghanistan.

The PDPA and the DRA Government attach high value to the great internationalist assistance of the Soviet Union for our freedom loving homeland in order to repel and eliminate the aggression of imperialism and reaction in the region and to realize the aims and aspirations of the April Revolution. In the future too, we will make all efforts to consolidate and enrich the fraternal friendly relations, revolutionary solidarity, and all-round cooperation between our parties, states, and peoples. I am fully confident that the friendly fraternal relations between our parties and the all-round cooperation between the DRA and the great Soviet Union will, henceforth too, increasingly expand and broaden in the interest of our peoples and states and of lasting peace and security on our planet.

Iraq's Husayn

PM061250 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Feb 84 Second Edition pp 1, 2

[From unattributed feature under general heading: "Congratulations to Comrade K.U. Chernenko in Connection with His Election as CPSU Central Committee General Secretary"]

[Text] S. Husayn, general secretary of the Ba'th Party Regional Command:

In connection with your election to the post of CPSU Central Committee general secretary, please accept from me personally and from my comrades in the leadership our congratulations and best wishes.

We take this opportunity to confirm Iraq's firm determination to strengthen the relations of friendship and cooperation between our countries for the benefit of the overall interests of our peoples and the intensification of the struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and expansionism.

We wish you great successes in your work and we wish the friendly Soviet people further prosperity.

COMPARISON OF PDRY'S ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD GREETINGS

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 25 January in its Second Edition on page 2 carries greetings from PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to Konstantin Chernenko, under the general heading "Congratulations to Comrade K.U. Chernenko in Connection with his Election as CPSU Central Committee General Secretary". This has been compared with the Aden Domestic Service version published on page R 14 of the 16 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, revealing the following variations:

Paragraph one, line four omits "warmest".

Page R 15, paragraph one, line six, PRAVDA renders "superiority" as might [mogushchestvo]

Same paragraph, line eight reads: ...as well as consolidating the world's revolutionary movement... (omitting phrase)

JURISTS' CONFERENCE SEES NEED TO STEP UP LAW, ORDER

PM090950 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 7

[TASS report: "Conference of Jurists"]

[Text] Results of work in 1983, the tasks of judicial organs and courts, and measures to further strengthen socialist legality and law and order in light of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) and February (1984) Plenums and the propositions and conclusions contained in Comrade K.U. Chernenko's speech to voters of Moscow's Kuybyshevskiy Electoral Okrug have been discussed at a conference of leading personnel of republic ministries of justice and courts and legal scholars. It was held in Moscow 6 March.

USSR Minister of Justice V.I. Terebilov and other speakers devoted their main attention to questions of enhancing the efficiency of the judicial organs' activity and to practical measures to combat misappropriations, bribery and sqaundering of state resources. The need was pointed out to step up crime prevention and legal education work.

BRIEFS

AWARD TO SYNOD MEMBER -- Moscow March 5 TASS -- The Order of Friendship Among Peoples has been presented to Metropolitan Antoniy of Leningrad and Novgorod, member of the Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church. This was announced today by the managing department of the Moscow Patriarchate. The prominent religious leader has been decorated with the state award "on the occasion of his 60th birthday and for patriotic and peace-making activity". [Excerpt] [Moscow TASS in English 1528 GMT 5 Mar 84 LD]

AWARD TO RUBEN -- By the decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Vitaliy Petrovich Ruben, chairman of the Council of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet has been awarded the Red Banner of Labor Order for his services for the Communist Party and Soviet state, and in connection with his 70th birthday. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 25 Feb 84 LD]

SHALOM ALEIKHEM COMMEMORATION -- In Moscow, the presidium of the Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Public has discussed preparations for marking on 2 March the 125th birth anniversary of the classic of Jewish literature, Shalom Aleikhem. It was pointed out that in his books the writer called for internationalist unity of the working people, and it is the idea of internationalist unity of the oppressed people in the struggle against the social and spiritual yoke that has made and continues to make the Zionists especially furious. In the Soviet Union the works of Shalom Aleikhem have been published 542 times in 24 languages. Their total edtion is 9.5 million copies. [Text] [Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 29 Feb 84 LD]

BRIGADE LABOR ORGANIZATION EFFECTIVENESS VIEWED

OW080109 [Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 0810 on 18 February carries the 30-minute "Political Observer's Talk" program with Yuriy Aleksandrovich Letunov devoted to brigade labor organization.

Letunov begins the program by citing television viewers' questions asking about various facets of brigade labor. After citing the resolution of the December 1983 CPSU Central Committee Plenum on the duty of collectives and individuals to fulfill plan tasks and effect highly-productive labor, Letunov introduces a number of correspondents' video reports on brigade labor organization throughout the USSR.

Letunov interviews Ivan Ivanovich Gladkiy, secretary of the AUCCTU, who answers a number of viewers' questions on brigade labor. He notes that the quantitative side of this issue has been resolved with about 64 percent of industry using brigade labor, but that "the qualitative side has fallen behind considerably." He adds that resolutions of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, and the AUCCTU, have concentrated attention on the qualitative aspect of brigade labor and increasing their efficiency.

In conclusion, Letunov, citing the February CPSU Central Committee Plenum, notes the great possibilities inherent in brigade labor.

USEFULNESS OF COUNTER-PLANS EMPHASIZED

OW071425 [Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 0650 GMT on 25 February carries the 30-minute "Political Observer's Talk" program with Lev Aleksandrovich Voznesenskiy, devoted to the question of counter-planning [vstrechnoye planirovaniye] and its function in the Soviet national economy.

Voznesenskiy moderates a group discussion at the Moscow Furniture Assembly Combine No 1. Its participants are Vasiliy Nikolayevich Shuruyev, chief of the Wages and Economic Work Department of the AUCCTU, and a number of the combine's officials, including its director A.I. Furin, the combine's trade union committee chairman and party committee secretary, and a number of workers.

Shuruyev briefly outlines the history of the counter-plan in the USSR, which began in the 1930's, and cites Chernenko's words at the extraordinary February CPSU Central Committee Plenum: "Our economy owes every one of its major achievements, to a varying degree, to the creative initiatives of labor collectives and their own so-called counter-plan."

Shuruyev notes the negative results of the practice begun in 1978 of including counter-plan pledges in the basic plan of an enterprise and subjecting them to approval by higher bodies. Citing the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution of December 1983, Shuruyev emphasizes that counter-plans are now not subject to approval by higher bodies, and are not included in plan tasks. Answering Voznesenskiy's question, Shuruyev clarifies the difference between enterprises' basic plans and counter-plans, which allow the enterprise to take on supplementary production targets after approval of basic plans, since counter-plans originate at the brigade, or link level, where new reserves are now easily determined.

Shuruyev also notes that counter-plans and socialist pledges are complementary, and that enterprises often include increased economy and productivity pledges within the framework of the counter-plan.

In conclusion, Voznesenskiy urges labor collectives and the AUCCTU to continue efforts to develop and improve the new form of counter-planning.

CPSU CONGRATULATES VIRGIN LAND WORKERS

PM011602 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Mar 84 First Edition p 5

[CPSU Central Committee message entitled "Heroic Epic"]

[Text] To the sovkhoz workers, kolkhoz members, agricultural scientists and experts, agro-industrial complex workers, party, soviet, trade union, and Komsomol organizations of the virgin lands and to all participants in the opening up of the virgin and fallow lands.

Dear comrades!

The CPSU Central Committee warmly congratulates sovkhoz workers, kolkhoz farmers; agricultural scientists and experts; workers of the agro-industrial complex; party, administrative, trade union, and Komsomol organizations of the virgin land regions; and all participants in the opening-up of virgin and fallow lands, on a momentous event: the 30th anniversary of the start of the massive opening-up of the virgin lands.

The heroic epic of the virgin lands is a brilliant page in the chronicle of the creative labor of the party and people, the embodiment of the Leninist agrarian policy of the CPSU, and convincing evidence of the advantages of the socialist system of management.

The opening-up in a short period of time of 42 million hectares of virgin and fallow lands transformed the economy and culture of extensive regions of Kazakhstan, Siberia, the Urals, the Volga, and other regions of the country. On previously uninhabited lands, towns and well-appointed settlements began, kolkhozes were created, factories and works were built, and science centers were organized.

The upsurge of the virgin lands is an outstanding labor exploit of the Soviet poeple, a memorable landmark in the biographies of millions of people whose lives and selfless toil serve as convincing examples of devotion to the cause of the party, and of readiness to answer the party's call to embark on fresh, great exploits.

The virgin lands campaign was a truly nationwide cause, a brilliant manifestation of fraternal friendship and internationalism of the working people of all union republics. In the vanguard of the battle for the big virgin lands' loaf marched the Communists. The virgin lands became a remarkable school of citizenship, patriotism, labor, and ideological-moral upbringing for hundreds of thousands of envoys of the Lenin Komsomol. Today, on the opened-up lands, shoulder-to-shoulder with veterans, a new generation of virgin landers is working, worthily continuing the glorious traditions of the pioneers.

The past three decades have with all clarity confirmed the timeliness and socioeconomic expediency of the opening-up of the new lands. The virgin land regions are year-by-year making a more and more weighty contribution to the implementation of the USSR Food Program. The material and technical basis created here, the agro-industrial complex that has taken shape, the growing use of chemicals and land reclamation, and the rich experience of party organizational and political work among the masses are increasing the opportunities for the further growth of volumes of production grain, feed, and other crop products; and for the accelerated development and enhancement of the productivity of animal husbandry.

Workers of the virgin land regions, as all workers of the country's agro-industrial complex, should continue to improve the utilization of the potential that has been created, work for a further intensification of agricultural production and an enhancement of its efficiency, and bring into action all existing reserves for the fulfillment of the decisions of the 26th party congress and ensuing plenums of the CPSU Central Committee on questions of development of the agrarian sector of the economy. It is important to increase substantially the yield of resources directed for the development of the agro-industrial complex; accelerate the introduction of a scientifically-based system of cultivation; and enhance the crop yield, especially on irrigated lands, and productivity of animals and fowl. It is necessary to perfect persistently the organization of production and labor incentives; consolidate financial autonomy; widely incorporate collective contracting; and develop effective socialist competition for an all-round increase in labor productivity and reduction of costs of production.

Party committees, primary party organizations, are called upon to enhance unswervingly the standard of organizational and political work in labor collectives; strengthen state, plan, and labor discipline and organization at all sectors of production; instill a thrifty attitude to land, equipment, and material resources; do everything to promote the initiative of new bodies of management of agro-industrial associations; and ensure the efficiency of their work and high sense of responsibility for solving the main problems of development of agriculture and the agro-industrial complex in general.

The CPSU Central Committee expressed the firm conviction that the working people of the virgin lands regions will exert every effort to implement the decisions of the 26th party congress and ensuing plenums of the CPSU Central Committee, fight persistently and purposefully for the further enhancement of the efficiency of agricultural production and its intensification, and make a worthy contribution to the successful fulfillment of the plans for 1984 and the 11th 5-Year Plan period overall and the implementation of the USSR Food Program.

Glory to the conquerors of the virgin lands! Comrade virgin landers, onward to new labor achievements!

The CPSU Central Committee

STATISTICS OFFICIAL NOTES VIRGIN LANDS SUCCESS

LD021747 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0835 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow 2 Mar (TASS) -- More than 1/3 of grain in the USSR is today provided by virgin lands, whose assimilation began in 1953-54, Viktor Manyakin, deputy head of the USSR Central Statistical Administration reported. He was interviewed by a TASS correspondent on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the start of the opening up of the vast steppes in the Urals, Volga area, in the south of Siberia, in Kazakhstan and other regions of the country.

Three decades ago western propaganda mouthpieces prophesied the "complete failure" of the virgin lands epic, and now on the occasion of the jubilee they continue to write of it as a "failed experiment."

Commenting on these claims, Viktor Manyakin said that the facts indicate precisely the opposite. The opening up of the virgin and fallow lands meant bringing more than 42 million hectares of fertile arable land under the plow.

In three decades the former virgin land has yielded 885 million tons of grain, 93 million tons of meat and poultry, over 280 million tons of milk, and 139,000 million eggs. The number of cattle in the virgin land regions grew by 16.5 million and that of sheep by more than 26 million.

Today, Viktor Manyakin continued, the virgin lands yield 23 percent of the meat, 22 percent of the milk, 23 percent of the eggs and nearly 50 percent of the wool.

Certain mass media mouthpieces in the West claim that the assimilation of the new lands did not justify itself economically. The Soviet state, Viktor Manyakin said in this connection, has in 30 years invested 148.8 billion rubles in the assimilation of the virgin and fallow lands. This has long ago been recouped and is yielding a profit. For instance, more than 21 billion rubles was spent on the development of Kazakhstan's agriculture, including that of the virgin lands, over 15 years. However, the state has received from grain sales alone 27.2 billion rubles, or 6 billion rubles of clear profit. The assimilation of virgin lands in other regions of the country has also been beneficial.

The enthusiasm of representatives of 100 nationalities of the Soviet Union who took part in the opening up of the new lands has today turned the former virgin lands into a major granary in the east of the Soviet country, a region of developed breeding and high culture.

COSMOS 1542 FUNCTIONING NORMALLY AFTER LAUNCH

LD071507 Moscow TASS in English 1458 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 7 TASS -- The Soviet Union launched a "Cosmos-1542" artificial satellite of the earth today. The satellite has onboard equipment for continuing the space research.

The satellite's original period of revolution is 90.3 minutes, the maximum distance from the earth's surface is 373 km, the minimum -- 236, the orbit inclination -- 70.4 degrees.

The equipment on board is functioning normally.

SPACE CENTER CHIEF NOTES MISSION PROGRESS

LD081530 Moscow TASS in English 0949 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 8 TASS -- "The crew of the orbiting complex consisting of 'Salyut-7,' 'Soyuz T-10' and 'Progress-19' are not only fulfilling their flight program precisely but are even ahead of schedule," Georgiy Beregovoy, chief of the Yuriy Gagarin Cosmonauts' Training Centre, said in a TASS interview on the space mission that had begun exactly a month ago today.

"I should say," General Beregovoy went on, "That both Commander Leonid Kizim and space rookies Vladimir Solovev and Oleg Atkov are working with intense enthusiasm and interest. The crew will pay much attention to medical and biological experiments and medical check-ups. They have a medical specialist aboard, and this opportunity should be used to the full. Now the crew have begun to prepare equipment for various planned astrophysical, medical, biological and technological experiments and natural studies. Visual observations in the interests, and under assignments, of specialists in various sectors of the national economy are among the cosmonauts' favoured occupations.

"The crew's self-assured, efficient and [words indistinct] us fully confident that they will carry out the planned program in full," Georgiy Beregovoy said in conclusion.

DETAILS OF COSMONAUTS' RESEARCH PROGRAM

LD061052 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0700 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Summary] The Soviet cosmonauts yesterday conducted an experiment in the program of outer-space materiology using a technical vaporizer system that was installed in one of the station's lock-chambers. The experiment aims at developing a technology for depositing thin metallic layers on flat-shaped objects by means of thermal vaporizing in a vacuum. The cosmonauts also continued work on the program of research into the Earth's natural resources and studying the environment. In particular they observed and photographed geological formations in the Central Kyzylkum desert and the western approaches of the Tyan-Shan mountains. The on-board systems are functioning normally. The cosmonauts feel well.

INDIAN COSMONAUTS PASS PREFLIGHT SPACE TEST

BK071449 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] The first Indian cosmonaut, Squadron Leader Rakesh Sharma, and his standby, Wing Commander Ravish Malhotra, have passed the test in space docking. They are now undergoing preflight training at the Soviet Union's Yuriy Gagarin Space Center in Moscow.

The Indo-Soviet joint space mission is scheduled to be launched in the middle of 1984.